ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides an image processing apparatus comprising an input unit for inputting image data, a generation unit for generating security data

5   for protecting the image data, a division unit for dividing the image data into blocks, an encoding unit for encoding the image data in the unit of the block, adaptively utilizing an intrapicture encoding mode and an interpicture encoding mode, a selection unit for

10   selecting the encoding mode, and an output unit for outputting security data generated by the generation unit, image data encoded by the encoding unit, and encoding mode data indicating the encoding mode selected by said selection unit, wherein the selection

15   unit selects the encoding mode in such a manner that the image data of an arbitrary block in a picture are subjected to intrapicture encoding at least once within n pictures according to the security data.